

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 011035Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4595

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DHAHRAN 0138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: SAG/ARAMCO NEGOTIATIONS RE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

1. ON JANUARY 28 CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED WITH ARAMCO CHAIRMAN FRANK JUNGERS AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNEMENTAL AFFAIRS MAJED ELASS THE

JANUARY 27 STATEMENT BY SAG MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM UNDER SECRETARY 'ABD AL-AZI" AT-TURKI CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT OWNERSHIP OF ARAMCO. ACCORDING TO AN FBIS REPORT, RIYADH'S DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC BROADCAST ON JANUARY 27 A STATEMENT BY TURKI THAT "THE SAUDI GOVERNEMENT WILL SOON SNCLARE ITS FULL OWNERSHIP OF ARAMCO, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ENTERED THE FINAL STAGE TO DEFINE THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE METHOD OF OWNERSHIP."

2. JUNGERS AND ELASS, WHO WERE APPROACHED SEPARATELY FOR THEIR COMMENTS ON TURKI'S STATEMENT, BOTH RESPONDED THAT (A) THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE TERRORIST ATTACK DURING THE VIENNA OPEC MEETINGS, AND (B) THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE STATEMENT INDICATES A HARDENING OR ANY CHANGE IN THE
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SAG POSITION. ACCORDING TO THE ARAMCO OFFICIALS, A NEGOTIATING

SESSION WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR LONDON IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
VIENNA OPEC MEETING WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK.
MINISTH YAMANI HAS SHOWN NO INTEREST IN AN EARLY RESCHEDULING OF
THE MEETING, AND NO NEGOTIATING SESSION IS NOW ON THE CALENDAR.
BUSHNELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, NATIONALIZATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DHAHRA00138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0906
From: DHAHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaadenc.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG/ARAMCO NEGOTIATIONS RE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
TAGS: ENRG, SA, ARAMCO
To: STATE JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006